Judicial powers under the Essentia], Commodities (Special Provisions) Act

2301. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI; Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the executive has also been vested with judicial powers under the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act; and

(b) whether government would consider withdrawal of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUP PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH AD DITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MIN ISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN ISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act) as amended by the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, Collectors of the districts and the State Governments are vested with quasi-judicial powers in respect of confiscation of an essential commodity seized in pursuance of orders made under the Act.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Compaign for consumer awareness among the masses

2302. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether if is a fact that there is still ignorance among the masses about their rights as consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have drawn plans to intensify their campaign in spreading consximer awareness among the masses; and

(c) if so, by when the plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Consumer movement is a recent development in this country. So far Government has taken a number of measures to create consumer awareness amongst the masses about their rights. Some of these measures are enactment and enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; amendments of seven major legislations namely the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act etc. to empower consumer and registered consumer organisations to file complaint in the courts; encouraging formating of consumer organisations; organising seminars, exhibitions, meetings training programmes etc; printing of literature and its free distribution; publishing a quarterly journal "Upa-bhokta Jagaran" and its free distribution to consumer organisations, litoeraries etc; observance of Consumer Day; preparation of audio visual material; broadcast of weekly programme "Apne Adhikar" on AIR; use of mass media; institution of two national awards—one for consumer organisations and other for youths etc.

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो की प्रयोगशालायें

2303. श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग: क्या नागरिक, आपूर्ति उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो की कितनी प्रयोगशालायें स्थापित की गई हैं और ये प्रयोगशालायें किन-किन स्थानों पर स्थित हैं ;